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January 22, 2001

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U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Regarding Petition 98P-0151

This letter is to urge you to grant Petition 98P-0151 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. This important petition would greatly reduce the suffering of thousands of animals that collapse in the process of being slaughtered for food in the United States. There is no humane way to move these animals and they should be euthanized on the spot. Some are sick and diseased and others suffer from broken bones from being crammed together in trucks and pens. Cows, sheep, pigs, and goats, like the cow in the enclosed photograph, are often brutalized by stockyard workers, trampled by other animals and left in agonizing pain without food, water, and veterinary care for hours and sometimes days.

This would be animal abuse and punishable by law if done to a dog or cat so why is this permitted to these animals? In the name of profit, they are often dragged by chains on one of their legs into trucks and killing floors. As anyone who has companion animals knows, animals experience happiness and pain as we do. I can tell you from personal experience that farm animals are no different. Animals may not have the intelligence of a human, but that doesn't diminish their feelings of pain and terror when they are tortured and suffer. This petition is imperative to prevent needless suffering of animals used in food production

In addition to the ethical issue involved in these sentient beings, these animals present a threat to human health. They could even be afflicted with diseases as serious to our health as variations of Mad Cow disease. Downed animals are a small percentage of animals slaughtered and prohibiting their marketing would not cause a financial hardship. In fact, passing this petition would provide incentive to prevent sick and injured animals in the first place!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jamie L. Cohen
Jamie L. Cohen

Enclosure

C 3629

98P-0151



A debilitated dairy cow is left to suffer in the parking lot at a California stockyard

PASS “THE DOWNED ANIMAL PROTECTION ACT”

Downed animals, animals too sick even to stand, suffer horribly at stockyards. Downed animals are commonly denied food, water, and veterinary attention, and many die of gross neglect. Those who survive the stockyard are dragged to slaughter with chains.

For more information contact Farm Sanctuary: California (916) 865-4617, New York (607) 583-2225

The Humane Society of the United States

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